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The newly installed rolling mills for structural steel at the Brandenburg Steel and Rolling Mill have been completely dismantled, and the machines and installations required for the two rolling mills have been shipped to the Hennigsdorf Steel and Rolling Mill.

This action was based on the fact that the Brandenburg Mill, because of the stoppage of the Siemens-Martin furnaces, was in no position to produce steel ingots. Ingots were obtained from the Riesa, Maxhuetten/Unterwellenborn, and Hennigsdorf plants and rolled on a trial basis. However, this procedure was too time-consuming, and, in addition, there were difficulties in obtaining railroad cars from the Reichsbahn to transport the ingots. Furthermore, transportation took too much time, one week on the average, in spite of the use of express-freight trains.

Therefore, the Brandenburg Plant was in no position to keep up the uninterrupted production of structural steel, and its stoppages jeopardized the German Democratic Republic's supply of this material, for both the carrying out of the Five-Year Plan program and the uninterrupted delivery of reparations. Therefore, the competent ministry ordered the rolling operations for structural steel discontinued, and charged other plants with this operation, among them the Hennigsdorf Plant. All machines and installations in this production branch were dismantled and shipped off.

There was also another reason for the dismantling. The Brandenburg Plant has turned away more and more from its original purpose of a steel and rolling mill as it has built up its installations for the production of nonferrous metals, aluminum, and carbide. Previously there were no installations of this type in East Germany, except on a small scale for nonferrous metals production. Therefore, the aforementioned branches of production were centralized at Brandenburg, where they are being enlarged on an increased scale. Additional workshops required for this purpose can be obtained only under great difficulties, because of a shortage of materials and a lack of experts. Additional installations for processing metal and aluminum will be installed in the workshops vacated by the dismantling of rolling mill installations.

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